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**URBAN DISTRICT OF WOLVERTON**

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**ANNUAL REPORT**  
of the  
**Medical Officer of Health**  
for the year  
**1958**



Principal Address of Medical Officer of Health:

Area Health Offices, Wilberforce Buildings,  
40a, Bletchley Road, Bletchley, Bucks.

Telephone Number: Bletchley 2507.

Public Health Department, Wolverton Urban District Council,  
Council Offices, Market Square, Stony Stratford,  
Wolverton, Bucks.

Telephone Number: Stony Stratford 3253/4.



URBAN DISTRICT OF WOLVERTON

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# ANNUAL REPORT

for the year

1958

of the

**Medical Officer of Health**

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Chairman of the Council : Councillor T. H. Haseldine, J.P.

## **PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE**

Chairman : Councillor Aileen Button

Councillors : ATTER, CAUSER, HASELDINE, HIGBY,  
HOLLAND, KITCHENER, LOVE and WILDMAN

## **PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF**

Medical Officer of Health : D. H. WALDRON

O.B.E., M.D., D.P.H., D.T.M., & H., Col. I.M.S. (Retd.)

(The Medical Officer of Health is also the M.O.H. for Buckingham M.B., and Buckingham R.D.C., Bletchley U.D.C., Linslade U.D.C., Wing R.D.C., Newport Pagnell U.D.C., Area M.O. for North Bucks and Divisional School M.O. for the North Bucks Division and Buckingham and Winslow District)

Deputy M.O.H. — F. SEYMOUR, M.B.Ch.B., D.P.H.

## **HEALTH INSPECTOR**

D. M. TUCKER, A.R.S.H.



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## URBAN DISTRICT OF WOLVERTON

Council Offices,  
Market Square,  
Stony Stratford,  
Wolverton, Bucks.

10th June, 1959.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1958.

There was a total of 168 births during the year, 14 less than the previous year. This gives a corrected Birth Rate of 14.2 against the rate of 16.2 for England and Wales.

Deaths have decreased compared with the previous year giving a corrected rate of 11.1. The Death Rate for England and Wales was 11.7. Of the total of 184 deaths, 24 were due to Cancer and 109 were due to Heart and Allied Diseases.

The Infantile Mortality Rate shows a satisfactory drop from the previous year. The rate was 17.0 compared with 49.5 in 1957. There were 3 actual deaths in this group, all below the age of 4 weeks.

In the realm of Infectious Disease we had a small attack of Anterior Poliomyelitis early in the year in the New Bradwell area. The first cases were notified towards the end of December and continued into January. Due to the speedy action of the General Practitioners concerned in the diagnosis, isolation and notification of the cases the outbreak remained small and circumscribed. A total of 8 cases occurred, 2 of whom were adults. I should like to pay a tribute to the hard work put in by your Health Inspector, Mr. D. Tucker, in the investigation and follow up of the various cases.



Due to better supplies of vaccine an intensive programme of vaccination against Poliomyelitis was carried out and by August all children registered had received the vaccine. Towards the end of the year the Minister of Health extended the age group eligible for vaccination to 25. The response on the whole has been disappointing, although the Wolverton area shows a better response than others, where it is estimated that over 50% of the 16 to 25 age group have received the vaccine. This is due in a large measure to the co-operation of the Radcliffe School, The College of Further Education, Messrs. McCorquodale and Co. Ltd., and British Railways Carriage and Wagon Works.

I should like to record another year of pleasant co-operation with your Clerk, Mr. J. B. Harwood, your Health Inspector, Mr. D. M. Tucker, and their staffs.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

D. H. WALDRON,

Medical Officer of Health.

## SECTION A

| <b>VITAL STATISTICS</b>         | for the year | 1957     | 1958   |
|---------------------------------|--------------|----------|--------|
| Area (in acres) ... ..          |              | 4,699    | 4,699  |
| Population ... ..               |              | 13,390   | 13,300 |
| Number of Inhabited Houses ...  |              | 4,591    | 4,611  |
| Rateable Value (1st April) ...  | £135,920     | £136,104 |        |
| Sum represented by 1d. Rate ... | £541         | £541     |        |
| Rate per £1 ... ..              | 22/8         | 23/4     |        |

### **Births**

|   |      |      |
|---|------|------|
| Legitimate : Males ... ..                             | 87   | 75   |
| Females ... ..  | 89   | 83   |
| Illegitimate : Males ... ..                           | 4    | 6    |
| Females ... ..  | 2    | 4    |
| Birth Rate per 1,000 Population ...                   | 15.3 | 14.2 |
| Birth Rate per 1,000 Population,<br>Bucks County      | 16.7 | 17.3 |
| Birth Rate per 1,000 Population,<br>England and Wales | 16.1 | 16.4 |
| Still Births ... ..                                   | 3    | 3    |

### **Deaths**

|   |      |      |
|---|------|------|
| Males ... ..  | 101  | 89   |
| Females ... ..  | 97   | 95   |
| Death Rate per 1,000 Population ...                   | 11.9 | 11.1 |
| Death Rate per 1,000 Population,<br>Bucks County      | 9.7  | 9.8  |
| Death Rate per 1,000 Population,<br>England and Wales | 11.5 | 11.7 |
| Maternal Mortality ... ..                             | Nil  | Nil  |
| Maternal Mortality,<br>England and Wales              | 0.47 | 0.43 |

### **Infantile Mortality**

|   |      |      |
|---|------|------|
| Deaths of Infants under 1 year per<br>1,000 Live Births ... ..            | 49.5 | 17.9 |
| Deaths of Infants under 1 year per<br>1,000 Live Births, Bucks County ... | 21.6 | 16.4 |
| Deaths of Infants under 1 year per<br>1,000 Live Births, England & Wales  | 23.0 | 22.5 |

# **PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH**

|                            |     |     |     | 1957 |    |     | 1958 |    |     |
|----------------------------|-----|-----|-----|------|----|-----|------|----|-----|
|                            |     |     |     | M    | F  | T   | M    | F  | T   |
| Tuberculosis, respiratory  | ... |     |     | 0    | 0  | 0   | 2    | 0  | 2   |
| Tuberculosis, other        | ... |     |     | 0    | 0  | 0   | 0    | 0  | 0   |
| Diphtheria                 | ... | ... | ... | 0    | 0  | 0   | 0    | 0  | 0   |
| Whooping Cough             | ... | ... | ... | 0    | 0  | 0   | 0    | 0  | 0   |
| Meningococcal Infections   | ... |     |     | 0    | 0  | 0   | 0    | 0  | 0   |
| Acute Poliomyelitis        | ... |     |     | 0    | 0  | 0   | 0    | 0  | 0   |
| Measles                    | ... | ... | ... | 0    | 0  | 0   | 0    | 0  | 0   |
| Cancer                     | ... | ... | ... | 26   | 16 | 42  | 12   | 12 | 24  |
| Leukaemia                  | ... | ... | ... | 1    | 0  | 1   | 0    | 1  | 1   |
| Diabetes                   | ... | ... | ... | 1    | 0  | 1   | 0    | 1  | 1   |
| Cerebral Haemorrhage       | ... |     |     | 9    | 15 | 24  | 9    | 17 | 26  |
| Heart Diseases             | ... | ... | ... | 33   | 40 | 73  | 39   | 36 | 75  |
| Other Circulatory Diseases | .   |     |     | 3    | 3  | 6   | 2    | 6  | 8   |
| Influenza                  | ... | ... | ... | 0    | 3  | 3   | 0    | 1  | 1   |
| Bronchitis                 | ... | ... | ... | 3    | 1  | 4   | 7    | 4  | 11  |
| Pneumonia                  | ... | ... | ... | 5    | 6  | 11  | 3    | 4  | 7   |
| Other Respiratory Diseases | .   |     |     | 0    | 0  | 0   | 1    | 1  | 2   |
| Digestive Diseases         | ... | ... | ... | 2    | 1  | 3   | 1    | 1  | 2   |
| Nephritis                  | ... | ... | ... | 2    | 0  | 2   | 0    | 0  | 0   |
| Hyperplasia of Prostate    | ... |     |     | 1    | 0  | 1   | 0    | 0  | 0   |
| Pregnancy, Childbirth,     |     |     |     |      |    |     |      |    |     |
| Abortion                   | ... | ... | ... | 0    | 0  | 0   | 0    | 0  | 0   |
| Congenital Causes          | ... | ... | ... | 1    | 1  | 2   | 2    | 0  | 2   |
| Accidents                  | ... | ... | ... | 6    | 0  | 6   | 5    | 0  | 5   |
| Suicide                    | ... | ... | ... | 2    | 2  | 4   | 1    | 1  | 2   |
| ALL other Causes           | ... | ... | ... | 6    | 9  | 15  | 5    | 10 | 15  |
|                            |     |     |     | —    | —  | —   | —    | —  | —   |
|                            |     |     |     | 101  | 97 | 198 | 89   | 95 | 184 |



## **SECTION B**

### **GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES**

#### **1. Laboratory Services.**

The bacteriological work of the District has been carried out by the Public Health Laboratory at Northampton. Samples for chemical analysis are sent to London.

#### **2. Ambulance Services.**

These services are administered by the County Council and are now radio controlled from Aylesbury with sub-stations throughout the County. The Wolverton area is covered by Bletchley sub-station. British Railways also maintain an ambulance at Wolverton Works.

#### **3. Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics.**

Clinics are held twice monthly in New Bradwell and Stony Stratford and three times monthly at Wolverton. These clinics are attended by Nurses, Health Visitors and a doctor, and immunizations against Diphtheria and Whooping Cough were carried out in addition to routine inspections. The total number of attendances by children was 3,481.

A word of thanks and praise must be given to the ladies of the voluntary committee who give so much of their spare time in helping to organise these clinics.

#### **4. Chest Clinic**

The clinic continues to do excellent work in the field of prevention and control of Tuberculosis. Sessions are held twice weekly at The Meacham Clinic and are under the personal supervision of the County Chest Physician.

#### **5. Physiotherapy Clinic.**

Administered by Northampton General Hospital, this clinic functions daily at Wolverton Road, Stony Stratford, and is doing excellent work.

#### **6. Wolverton Diagnostic Clinic.**

This clinic, administered by the Northampton General Hospital, is situated at The Meacham Clinic and is attended at various times during the week by Specialists from Northampton.

### **7. Dental Clinic.**

Administered by the County Council, this clinic is located at Wolverton and is doing excellent work amongst the school children.

### **8. Nursing Facilities.**

As in previous years the District Nurses carried on their excellent and noble work.

### **9. Health Visiting.**

The whole time Health Visitors are doing excellent work in this area.

### **10. Home Helps Service.**

This service, administered by the County Council with the assistance of the Women's Voluntary Service, has done very good work since its inception. Approximately 162 cases were assisted during the year.

### **11. Hospital Services.**

The majority of cases are sent to the Northampton Group of Hospitals, but some are also admitted to the Aylesbury and Oxford Groups.

## **SECTION C**

### **SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA**

#### **Water.**

The supply of water for distribution within the district is obtained from two sources of supply. At one supply, the Calverton Road Pumping Station, water is extracted and distributed by the Council. The other source of supply is from the Bucks Water Board, the Council receiving water in bulk at their Shenley Ground Reservoir and distributing it.

The water is regularly sampled and submitted for bacteriological examination to the Public Health Laboratories at Northampton.

A total 135 samples were taken and of these only four were reported by the Analyst to have some degree of pollution. This pollution was only of a transient nature and fresh samples showed the water to be of its high bacteriological standard.

There were no complaints made during the year of unpalatability, and there were no reports of infestations of Niais worms; this was undoubtedly due to the early stepping up of the Chlorine content of the water.

Details of samples of water submitted for chemical analysis are given below.

Untreated Water: Calverton Road Pumping Station, Stony Stratford.

Treated Water: Shenley Ground Reservoir — Bucks Water Board.

|                               |     |     |     | Parts per Million               |                |
|-------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|---------------------------------|----------------|
|                               |     |     |     | Untreated Water                 | Treated Water  |
| Total dissolved solids        | ... |     |     | 740                             | 446            |
| Total suspended solids        | ... |     |     | 2                               | nil            |
| Chlorine as Cl                | ... | ... |     | 269                             | 269            |
| Equivalent to Sodium chloride |     |     |     | 44.2                            | 44.2           |
| Free and saline Ammonia       | ... |     |     | 0.072                           | 0.064          |
| Albuminoid Ammonia            | ... |     |     | 0.102                           | 0.038          |
| Nitrates                      | ... | ... | ... | 0.02                            | 0.01           |
| Nitrites                      | ... | ... | ... | minute trace                    | minute trace   |
| Oxygen absorbed from N/80     |     |     |     |                                 |                |
| Permanganate in 3 hrs. @ 98°F |     |     |     | 0.104                           | 0.076          |
| Hardness ° Clark Scale        | ... |     |     | 41.2                            | 23.5           |
| Calcium as CaO                | ... | ... |     | 241                             | 140            |
| Magnesium as MgO              | ... | ... |     | 29                              | 16             |
| Sulphate as SO                | ... | ... |     | 137                             | 89             |
| Total alkalinity as CaCO      | ... |     |     | 220                             | 185            |
| Copper                        | ... | ... | ... | less than 0.01                  | less than 0.01 |
| Lead                          | ... | ... | ... | absent                          | absent         |
| Zinc                          | ... | ... | ... | absent                          | absent         |
| Iron                          | ... | ... | ... | less than 0.01                  | less than 0.01 |
| Reaction pH                   | ... | ... |     | 7.4                             | 7.4            |
| Appearance                    |     |     |     | Bright, clear, odourless liquid |                |

## Public Cleansing.

The collection of house refuse is on a satisfactory basis. Certain alterations carried out at the refuse tip ensure that the face of deposited refuse is immediately covered, and the work of reclamation of this land is proceeding most satisfactorily under the direction of the Engineer and Surveyor of this Council.



## **Closet Accommodation.**

With the exception of the Weald of Calverton and the hamlet of Old Wolverton, practically 100% of the houses in the Wolverton area are on a water carriage system. It is hoped that with the stepping up of the rate of slum clearance and improvements envisaged by the owners, that it is likely that this figure will be greatly improved in the very near future.

## **Shops Act, 1950. (S.38).**

Shops have been inspected for the contravention of this Act, and in some circumstances it has been found necessary to secure application by informal action.

It was not found necessary to take statutory action during the year.

During the winter months the temperature in many of the shops fell far short of what could be described as comfortable, and in one instance during a cold spell a temperature of 38 degrees F. was recorded. Following representations the owners of the shop made immediate provision of the extra heating required.

## **Markets.**

At the market in Wolverton some work has been carried out by the tenants of stalls to improve the hygienic standards.

During the year the Council opened their own open-air market at Stony Stratford. In every case where food was to be sold the stall holders were required to comply fully with the Food Hygiene Regulations. The standards of hygiene of stall holders at this market are very high.

## **Smoke Abatement.**

Smoke pollution in the area has regrettably increased. This is in the main due to the coming into operation of a new oil fired boiler at the Post Office Supplies Department at Wolverton. Following representations about the matter remedial measures are to be taken.

The Council have adopted the Model Bye-law as an addition to their Building Bye-laws making it obligatory for all new premises to be fitted with grates capable of burning smokeless fuel.

## **Swimming Baths.**

Samples of water were taken from the River and Canal at points where both children and adults bathe. The pollution of the water is extremely high, and must be regarded as a hazard to health.

During the year water was sampled regularly from the private swimming pool at Mr. Fegan's Home. This water was found to be of its usual high standard, except for one short period when some transient pollution occurred. Remedial measures were immediately taken by the Supervisor of this Home, and these proved effective.

I should like to record my appreciation of the high degree of co-operation which is always given to the officers of my department by the staff of this Home, and I feel that as small parties of school children use this pool it is very reassuring to know that such care is taken to ensure that the pool is always maintained at this high standard.

### **Eradication of Bedbugs.**

There have been no cases of bedbug infestation during the year 1958.

### **Rodent Control.**

The work of rodent control has continued during the year. More emphasis has been given to the carrying out of surveys of properties likely to be infested with rats or mice, and this method has proved itself to be most satisfactory, by the fact that there have been no major infestations of rats or mice reported during the year.

This work is most important and any drop in the time allocated to this work would have very serious repercussions in the district.

## **INSPECTION AND VISITS**

### **Dwellinghouses.**

|                                    |     |     |       |
|------------------------------------|-----|-----|-------|
| Number of Dwellinghouses inspected | ... | ... | 1,134 |
|------------------------------------|-----|-----|-------|

### **Meat and Other Foods.**

|  |        |     |
|--|--------|-----|
| Number of inspections of Butcher Shops     | ...    | 143 |
| "    "    "    Slaughterhouses             | ... .. | 216 |
| "    "    "    Meat Distributors' Vehicles |        | 39  |
| "    "    "    Food Shops                  | ... .. | 713 |

### **Milk and Dairies Acts and Orders.**

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Number of inspections of Distributors' premises | 42 |
| Number of inspections of Distributors' vehicles | 79 |

### **Bake Houses**

|                       |        |    |
|-----------------------|--------|----|
| Number of inspections | ... .. | 49 |
|-----------------------|--------|----|

### **Ice Cream Retailers.**

|                       |        |    |
|-----------------------|--------|----|
| Number of inspections | ... .. | 89 |
|-----------------------|--------|----|

### **Ice Cream Manufacturers.**

|                       |        |    |
|-----------------------|--------|----|
| Number of inspections | ... .. | 21 |
|-----------------------|--------|----|

### **Factories and Work Shops.**

|                       |        |     |
|-----------------------|--------|-----|
| Number of inspections | ... .. | 143 |
|-----------------------|--------|-----|



**Petroleum Acts and Orders.**

|   |     |     |     |     |     |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Number of inspections of premises licensed to store petroleum | ... | ... | ... | ... | 103 |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|

**Caravans and Moveable Dwellings.**

|   |     |     |     |     |     |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Number of inspections of caravans and sites | ... | ... | ... | ... | 125 |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|

**Infectious Diseases.**

|                             |     |     |     |     |     |
|-----------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Number of visits of enquiry | ... | ... | ... | ... | 153 |
|-----------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|

**Schools.**

|                       |     |     |     |     |    |
|-----------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Number of inspections | ... | ... | ... | ... | 19 |
|-----------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|

**SECTION D**  
**INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD**

The inspection and supervision of food premises has been carried on during the year, and once more it has been necessary to take both statutory and informal action to secure the remedying of infringements of the Food Hygiene Regulations.

It appears to me that there is still a lack of appreciation of the elementary principles of food hygiene by food handlers. When infringements of the Food Hygiene Regulations are brought to their attention, comments are made that reveal that the food handlers think that their methods of handling food are perfectly satisfactory. It would appear from this that much still remains to be done in the field of the education of food handlers and producers.

Voluntary surrender of food considered unfit for human consumption was continued throughout the year, and the food so surrendered is disposed of under supervision at our refuse disposal tip.

**Ice Cream.**

There are 38 premises from which ice cream is sold and there is one producer of ice cream. Samples are taken regularly, and details are given below of the number and results of these samples.

**Ice Cream Sampling**

|                         |       |    |   |   |   |
|-------------------------|-------|----|---|---|---|
|                         | Grade | 1  | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Number of Samples taken | ...   | 28 |   |   |   |

**Milk.**

There are five persons carrying on the trade of milk distribution within the district, and of these two are registered dairymen. Samples of milk are taken regularly and the results are given below.

## Milk Sampling

| Number of Samples submitted. | Passed. | Failed. |
|------------------------------|---------|---------|
| 216                          | 215     | 1       |

### Meat.

There are three slaughter-houses in the area where slaughtering is carried on regularly and all meat for human consumption is inspected. Details of killing and inspection figures are given below, together with percentage figures of condemnation.

## CARCASSES and OFFAL INSPECTED and CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART

|   | Cattle<br>(excluding<br>Cows) | Cows | Calves | Sheep<br>and<br>Lambs | Pigs | Horses |
|---|-------------------------------|------|--------|-----------------------|------|--------|
| Number killed<br>(if known) ...   | 34                            | —    | 23     | 81                    | 79   | —      |
| Number inspected ...  | 34                            | —    | 23     | 81                    | 79   | —      |
| <b>All diseases except<br/>Tuberculosis and<br/>Cysticerci</b>  |                               |      |        |                       |      |        |
| Whole carcasses ...   | —                             | —    | —      | —                     | 2    | —      |
| Carcases of which<br>some part or organ<br>was condemned ...  | 4                             | —    | —      | 2                     | —    | —      |
| Percentage of the<br>number inspected<br>affected with dis-<br>ease o t h e r t h a n<br>tuberculosis a n d<br>cysticerci ... | 11.7%                         | —    | —      | 2.4%                  | 2.2% | —      |
| <b>Tuberculosis only</b>  |                               |      |        |                       |      |        |
| Whole carcasses<br>condemned ...  | —                             | —    | —      | —                     | —    | —      |
| Carcases of which<br>some part or organ<br>was condemned ...  | —                             | —    | —      | —                     | —    | —      |
| Percentage of the<br>number inspected<br>affected with tuber-<br>culosis ...  | —                             | —    | —      | —                     | —    | —      |

## Cysticercosis

No animals inspected were found to be affected.

## SECTION E

### Factories Act

The Ministry of Labour and National Service Form 572 has been completed and forwarded to the relevant authorities.

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## SECTION F

### PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

#### 1. General

Six cases of Anterior Poliomyelitis notified were part of a small epidemic which occurred in New Bradwell from the end of December 1957 and into January 1958. Epidemics of Measles occurred during the year and formed part of a general increase in incidents throughout the country.

#### 2. Notifications

|                    |     |     |     |     |
|--------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Scarlet Fever      | ... | ... | 26  | 14  |
| Measles            | ... | ... | 155 | 264 |
| Whooping Cough     | ... | ... | 5   | 1   |
| Poliomyelitis      | ... | ... | 3   | 6   |
| Pneumonia          | ... | ... | 10  | 5   |
| Food Poisoning     | ... | ... | 1   | 4   |
| Para Typhoid Fever | ... | ... | 1   | —   |
| Erysipelas         | ... | ... | —   | 1   |
| Puerperal Pyrexia  | ... | ... | —   | 1   |
| Ring Worms         | ... | ... | —   | 1   |

#### 3. Tuberculosis

Two cases were notified during the year. There were two deaths.

#### 4. Cancer

There were 24 deaths during the year, 3 being due to cancer of the lungs.









